



VOLUME XIX  
ISSUE XI  
NOVEMBER 2009

# OUR TOWN

SERVING THE VILLAGES OF BALTIC, HANOVER AND VERSAILLES  
IN THE BEAUTIFUL SHETUCKET RIVER VALLEY

**INFORMATION \* NEWS**

## FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN—Cathy Osten

This past month has got to be one of the prettiest Octobers in recent memory. That's been good news for the many organized hikes and walks sponsored by the Last Green Valley's "Walktober" program, which included a Sprague Conservation Commission-sponsored paddle from the Scotland Dam to Baltic and walk in the Sprague Land Preserve on the weekend of October 24. Check their website for additional events ([www.thelastgreenvalley.org](http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org)) -- the season isn't over yet!

Speaking of good news, Sprague has had lots of it this month. We've heard from the Small Town Economic Assistance (STEAP) Program that we were awarded \$147,000, the final award necessary to begin replacement of the LaCroix Road Bridge. We should have the request for proposal out by the end of next month. We also heard from Department of Economic and Community Development that our Small Cities application has been approved and we'll be receiving \$675,000 to upgrade the Grist Mill to make the first and second floors completely handicap accessible and ADA compliant. A \$90,000 grant from USDA is helping to renovate the third floor in the same way, so it can be used as a museum and meeting space for Historical Society events. The USDA has been really kind to Sprague, and has awarded us a 33 percent grant to purchase defibrillators for the library, town hall, senior center, and town garage.

Speaking of public works, we've milled down and paved Park Drive and Fifth Avenue, Parkwood Drive has received new drainage and pavement, and we have just awarded a contract for the drainage upgrades and repaving of pieces of Hanover-Versailles Road. All sidewalk work should be completed by the end of this month; the contractor is just doing touch-up work now.

For those of you visiting the Baltic Reservoir, you'll notice the hundreds of new pine trees that have been planted around the perimeter, thanks to a grant from DEP's Urban Forestry department. We're hoping to use another Urban Forestry grant next year to assist with the refurbishment of the ice-skating rink so that this popular spot will see year-round use. A local business is interested in helping us with this project, which will be a great asset to the town in terms of providing more space for public activities as well as being a welcoming first sight to visitors entering town from the south. Have a great month!

### ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL BASKET RAFFLE

St. Joseph School's Basket Raffle and Auction will take place Saturday, November 21. Viewing begins at 4:30 p.m. with live auction and basket raffle promptly at 6 p.m. An assortment of local goods, services, gift certificates and theme baskets will be available. Some of the evening's highlights will include: various themed baskets, Disney shopper passes, museum memberships, Six Flag and Quassy Park tickets, Mad Science, get-aways, whale watching, ski lift passes, local restaurant certificates, and sporting events and memorabilia.

As always delicious hot foods and baked goods available for purchase. Please join us at St. Joseph School, 10 School Hill Road, Baltic, for a night of fun and early Christmas shopping!

An admission FREE event which is sure to be fun for all!



Holly Jolly Bazaar

Saturday, November 28

9 am to 3 pm.

Fire House

We still have a few tables available for rental. Cost of table rental is \$25 for an 8-foot table, which we supply. Call (860) 822-8331 and leave your name, mailing address and phone number.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10 at 7 p.m. at the fire house. Please remember that anyone interested in joining the Auxiliary is welcome. We are always looking for new members and new ideas for fundraising. You need not be a Sprague resident or have a spouse or family member in the Fire Department to join the Auxiliary.

~ Sincerely,

**OUR TOWN**

**Come for a fun morning!**

Come to Versailles United Methodist Church MBKQG (My Brother's Keeper Quilting Group) on November 3 and 17 and December 1 and 15 from 10 a.m. to Noon to make self-contained sleeping bags for the homeless, and children's surgery caps. We meet in the church fellowship hall. All are welcome. For more information call the church at (860) 822-9439 or Pastor Wanda at (401) 954-2470.

**SCOUTING FOR FOOD**

On Saturday, November 7, scouts will be going around town picking up bags of food. As usual, all food collected will be put in the Sprague Food Bank. Collection will begin at 9 a.m. We ask that bags be placed on the steps of your house where they can be seen from the road. The past food drives have been very successful, and this one will be, too. If by chance the scouts miss your bag, call Harry Segerstrom at (860) 822-62325 and it will be collected, or drop it off at Town Hall anytime during business hours, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Thanks for your support!  
~Harry Segerstrom, Troop 19



**UPDATED BUS SCHEDULE**

**Points of Departure**

Shetucket Village: 8:45 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:45 a.m.  
Saint Mary's Church parking lot: 8:48 a.m., 9:48 a.m., 11:48 a.m.  
Playground at Brookside Avenue and High Street: 8:52 a.m., 9:52 a.m., 11:52 a.m.  
TJ's Parking Lot, Route 97 and Main Street: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and Noon

**Arrival in Occum** Corner of Hooper Street and Route 97, by Red McKeon Park: 9:10 a.m., 10:10 a.m., and 12: 15 p.m.

**Return**

Stop as needed for return trip  
Express Return: 3:15 p.m. to Senior Center

Service runs Monday through Thursday except holidays. For more information call Buddy Meadows, Sprague Senior Center Coordinator, (860) 822-3000, ext. 203.

The Sprague to Occum Bus is a courtesy of the Town of Sprague and the Sprague Senior Center. For SEAT information, visit [www.seatbus.com](http://www.seatbus.com).

**ELECTIONS TO BE HELD**  
Elections will be held Tuesday November 3, 2009, at the Baltic Fire House, Route 138, Baltic. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**HAND-MADE CARDS FOR SALE**  
Beautiful and unique greeting cards hand-crafted by Sprague Seniors are available for sale in the Senior Center 1 Main Street, Baltic Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Cost is \$1.50 per card

**BRIGHTEN UP!**  
Skateboarders, cyclists, walkers and others who share the road are asked to wear lights and bright colored clothing after dusk so you can be seen. Safety helmets are also recommended for wheelers. Also, be aware of the new curb cuts and cross the road responsibly.  
You are not alone. We like you, so take care of yourselves.

**SALVATION ARMY ACCEPTING DONATIONS**  
The Salvation Army Upper New London County is accepting donations. Checks can be mailed to Salvation Army Upper New London County Service Unit, PO Box 304, Versailles, CT 06383.

**BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE**  
Saturday, November 7  
Sisters of Charity  
Main Street, Baltic

**SENIOR VAN SCHEDULE**  
**Lisbon Super Wal-Mart and Kohl's**  
Bi-weekly, Monday 1 to 3 p.m.  
**Norwich Big Y and Wal-Mart**  
by request.  
**Norwich Stop 'n Shop** and surrounding stores  
Thursday, 1 to 3 p.m.  
**Norwich Shop Rite**  
Tuesday, 1 to 2:30 p.m.  
**Willimantic Super Wal-Mart and Food Co-op** by request.  
Medical appointments require a 48-hour notice. Please contact the Senior Center for availability before making your next appointment. (860) 822 3000, ext 203.

## BOX TOPS FOR SAYLES

Sayles School needs your help.

Box Tops for Education, a fundraising program supported by Campbells Labels for Education, provides money to schools to buy supplies they might otherwise not be able to afford.

Sayles School is asking the community to support their fundraising efforts by:

- Clipping Box Tops from selected Campbell products and sending them to the school
- Sign up to support Sayles School at the Box Tops website, [btfe.com](http://btfe.com)
- Shop online at the Box Tops Marketplace: Sayles School will earn up to 15 % of purchases
- Buy books: Sayles School will earn up to 6% of purchases made through Barnes and Noble online through the Box Top Reading Room.
- Help a classroom by purchasing needed items through the My Class Essentials registry.

UPC labels from the following Campbell products are most appreciated:

Campbell's soups, Select Harvest soup, Supper Bakes meal kits, SpaghettiOs Pasta, original or meatball; beans, gravies, and canned pasta; Prego Italian sauces; Swanson stocks, broths, and canned poultry; V8 vegetable juices, V8 Splash, V8 Fusion, V8 soups, Campbells tomato juice, Pepperidge Farms breads, cookies, and frozen products, Goldfish crackers, Food service products.

Visit [labelsforeducation.com](http://labelsforeducation.com) for a complete list of eligible products.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

Sprague Historical Society would like to include your family's big dates on the 2010 historical calendar. The cost is \$1 for each birthday or anniversary. Money goes to preserve Sprague's history. Order forms are available at the back of last year's calendar and elsewhere in this publication. Send the form and a check to Sprague Historical Society, PO Box 162, Baltic, CT 06330.

The calendar costs \$5 and will be available in December.

Deadline for ordering is November 12.

## OUR TOWN

### NEW PROGRAMS AT BALTIC UMC

The Reverend Ho Soon Han is organizing two new programs during her office hours. She is starting a get-together for anyone who wants to be with others and knit scarves.

The second program is a discussion group on a best-selling book called *The Shack* by William Paul Young. It is based on a true happening in a person's life.

These will be on Tuesdays each week from 9 a.m. to noon. This is a good time to meet other local people. Also you can bring a friend.

For information call the Norwich office at (860) 887-5886 or the Baltic office at (860) 822-6595.

Looking forward to these meetings.

### Friends Sprague Public Library

Friends of Sprague Library has a web site designed for raising funds. With the Christmas Shopping Season in full swing we can support the library by shopping online. For every purchase there will be commissions paid to help our library.

Visit [www.ourgvmall.com/friendspraguepubliclibrary](http://www.ourgvmall.com/friendspraguepubliclibrary)

Businesses can support the library with their purchases from DELL and Office Depot. Buy your supplies and computers and help support the library.

For more information, contact Linda A. Puetz, President, Friends Sprague Public Library, (860)822-3012.

### American Legion Post 85 News

Commander Dave Salemma opened the meeting at 7:12 p.m. The Financial Officer noted that an official quorum was present to carry on Post business. Mr. Michaud, a World War II veteran and perspective member Bill Mish were present to observe the meeting. The Post encourages all veterans to come and listen to the post proceedings.

The Financial Officer stated that the Town has not notified the Post as to the state of the land lease that has been on record between the two parties. The Post is in arrears and is awaiting the arrears amount to be confirmed by the Town Attorney. The Financial Officer also stated that the Knights of Columbus have started meeting again and the pursuit of a partnership with the Council in a Building Project consideration will be revisited.

2010 membership cards will be sent out this week.

Commander Salemma asked the membership if they were interested in meeting at a different location to increase meeting attendance. The results were that the Taftville AL Post and the Baltic Fire House will also be asked if there is a possibility to meet at that facility. More information will be available at the next meeting on November 3.

The Financial Officer informed the Commander that a slate of officers had been developed for voting on by the membership. The following slate of officers was elected unanimously by the membership for 2010:

CDR – David Salemma  
ADJUTANT – Doug Patrick  
FINANCIAL OFFICER – Tom Coletti  
SR VICE CDR – Will Zinavage  
JR VICE CDR – Tim Brodeur  
CHAPLAIN – Joe Osowski  
SGT at ARMS – Rich Le Barre

The Post welcomed Bill Mish, Jr. (USAF-Vietnam) as the newest member of Post 85. Congratulations and welcome, Bill. The Post now has 38 active members.

The Adjutant stated that all veterans are invited to a brief wreath laying ceremony that will take place of Veterans' Day, November

~Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas Coletti, Financial Officer

## DTC Report

The DTC held its regular meeting on October 1. The committee voted to support Project Safe Halloween with a donation. Campaign progress was discussed: yard signs are located on most major roads in Sprague and a letter from Cathy Osten to all town residents describing the accomplishments of the past two years was prepared for mailing.

The RTC column in the last issue of Our Town on the value of a debate was reviewed. All were in agreement that the record of the past two years speaks for itself.

The question of town meetings was reviewed. Under Cathy Osten's leadership, the town held ten Special Town Meetings, one Small Cities Hearing, and two Annual Budget Meetings, both adjourned to referendum. This is comparable to the number of town meetings held under the previous administration with the exception of the Annual Budget Meetings. The decision by the Board of Selectmen to adjourn to referendum allowed for a greater participation by town residents and likely accounted for the reduced number of Annual Budget Meetings.

In addition, the Board of Selectmen met jointly with the Board of Finance for four weeks in March to discuss the town budget. This was not something which had been done in the previous administration. Cathy Osten and Buddy Meadows were the only two Selectmen attending all three joint meetings.

On the question of economic development for the town, the committee expressed its support for efforts to attract new business. The efforts have involved infrastructure improvements and may not appear to date to have made any significant changes. However, the town is well positioned in the next administration to benefit from the zoning changes recently passed by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

DTC members were concerned that there might be a low turnout at the election and discussed the need to urge all residents to vote in the upcoming election. Plans were made to encourage voter participation.

In closing, the DTC asks you to support the efforts of your Democratic team with your vote on November 3, 2009. Any questions for the candidates can be addressed by contacting Cathy Osten or Buddy Meadows at the Town Hall or [catherineosten@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catherineosten@sbcglobal.net) or [edmeadows10@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edmeadows10@sbcglobal.net).

You can also contact the campaign coordinator Susan Zimmerman at [susanpzimmerman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susanpzimmerman@sbcglobal.net).

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Monday, November 2:** Zoning Board of Appeals, Town Hall, 7 p.m.;

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 3:** American Legion Post 85, Senior Center, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 4:** Knights of Columbus, Fire House, 7:30 p.m.;

Sprague Board of Education, Sayles School, 7 p.m.;

Planning and Zoning, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**Thursday, November 5:** DTC, 330 Main St., Hanover, 6:30 p.m.;

Park and Rec., Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**Monday, November 9:** Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 10:** Ladies Auxiliary, Fire House, 7 p.m.;

Commission on Aging, Senior Center, 2:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 11:** Veteran's Day Ceremony, Town Hall, 11 a.m.

**Friday, November 13:** Neighborhood Watch, Fire House, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, November 18:** Water & Sewer Authority, Authority Office, 6:30 p.m.;

SEDC, Town Hall, 7 p.m.;

Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, November 19:** Board of Finance, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, November 24:** Historical Society, Grist Mill, 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, November 26:** Thanksgiving Day. Town Hall closed.

## AUCTION A SUCCESS

Troop 19 would like to thank all the local businesses who took ads in their auction brochure or who donated items for the auction.

Enough money was raised to run the troop all year, but not quite enough to also purchase a trailer.

The troop will hold additional fundraisers toward that goal.

The troop would also like to thank all the townspeople who came out to the auction and made it so successful.

With your support, we are able to provide a meaningful and educational program for the scouts.

~Friends of Troop 19

**FROM THE EDITOR:** Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month.

The writer's name, address and a contact phone number must be included with each submission. Because the focus of Our Town is community events, articles, commission notes and other items of town-wide interest will take priority over personal opinions. Annual budget considerations may affect page appropriations as well. Submissions may be e-mailed to [OurTownNews@gmail.com](mailto:OurTownNews@gmail.com), or mailed to Town Hall, P.O. Box 677, Baltic, CT 06330. Info: (860) 617-2986.

Sprague ~ Our Town is a free monthly publication of the Town of Sprague, serving the communities of Baltic, Hanover and Versailles. Primarily funded by the Town, support is also provided by paid advertisements. Opinions expressed in Sprague ~ Our Town are not necessarily those of town officials or the community at large, but solely reflect those of the writer. Submissions may be edited for clarity and format as necessary. Libelous or obscene materials are not permitted. **Editorial Assistant:** Colette Hoffman **Production Staff:** Al Hoffman, Rita Grenier, Al Grenier, Richard Waterman, Veronica Exley and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate.